



# 2003 National Clean Water Act Recognition Awards Ceremony



**Biolac Aeration in #1 Lagoon**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place, O&M, Small Secondary Plant, Antrim Wastewater  
Treatment Facility, Antrim, New Hampshire**

**United States  
Environmental Protection Agency**

**2003 National Clean Water Act  
Recognition Awards  
Ceremony**

Water Environment Federation Technical Exposition & Conference  
Los Angeles, California  
Monday, October 13, 2003

**US EPA National Awards Program Managers**

Maria Campbell  
**Operations and Maintenance and  
Overall Program Coordination**

John Walker  
**Biosolids Management**

Patricia Campbell  
**Pretreatment Program**

Wendy Bell  
**Storm Water Management**

Tim Dwyer  
**Combined Sewer Overflow Control Program**

## **The Program**

### **Welcome**

Jim Clark  
Past-President  
Water Environment Federation

### **Opening Remarks and Presentation of Awards**

James A. Hanlon Director  
Office of Wastewater Management  
U.S. EPA

### **Announcement of Award Recipients**

Sheila E. Frace, Director  
Municipal Support Division  
U.S. EPA

Linda Y. Boornazian, Director  
Water Permits Division  
U.S. EPA

### **National Awards Program Categories**

Operations and Maintenance Excellence  
Biosolids Management Excellence  
Pretreatment Program Excellence  
Storm Water Management Excellence  
Combined Sewer Overflow Control Program Excellence

**Following the ceremony, compliments of WEF, refreshments will be served in Room S408A.**

# **National Clean Water Act Recognition Awards Programs**

## **History**

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Clean Water Act (CWA) Recognition Awards program began with the National Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Excellence Awards in 1985, to recognize communities that have achieved outstanding O&M programs at publicly owned wastewater treatment facilities. The program, authorized by Section 501(e) of the CWA, presented the first national awards in 1986.

The O&M Awards program was an immediate success and was widely acclaimed as a way for EPA to honor plant personnel and local officials for their commitment to clean water. In 1988, the program was expanded to include Sludge Awards, now named Biosolids Management Excellence Awards. The awards recognize outstanding biosolids operating projects, technology development, research, and public acceptance efforts. In 1989, the Pretreatment Excellence Awards program was added to recognize municipal implementation and enforcement of local pretreatment programs. In 1990, a Most Improved Plant (MIP) category was added to the O&M Awards program to highlight successful achievements made under the EPA administered O&M technical assistance program, authorized by Section 104(g)(1) of the CWA. The MIP Award recognizes the efforts of the plant operator, the town, and the operator trainer who helped return the plant to compliance under a technical assistance program designed to help small communities. In 1991, the Combined Sewer Overflow Control Awards and the Storm Water Management Awards were added to recognize creative and cost-effective wastewater management programs and projects.

In 2002, the EPA codified a framework for the annual awards recognition program through the addition of a new part 105 to the Code of Federal Regulations. The program currently has five awards categories with size or facility based sub-categories for each.

To be eligible for a CWA Recognition Award, a wastewater facility, project or pollution abatement program must:

- be in total compliance with all applicable water quality requirements, and otherwise have a satisfactory record with respect to environmental quality; and,
- have written documentation as evidence of an outstanding technological achievement or an innovative process, method or device demonstrated in the preceding year, which resulted in environmental benefits, cost savings and/or public acceptance; and,
- be recommended by the State and/or EPA region.

## **The Award Process**

EPA headquarters issues annual guidance memoranda to administer each year's awards process and to request nominations for the awards. Forms to apply for the awards program categories are available at the State level, and can be obtained through the Internet at [www.epa.gov/owm](http://www.epa.gov/owm). Candidates may be nominated by EPA Regions, State water pollution control agencies, municipalities, consultants, wastewater treatment facilities or other interested parties in their state. After completing compliance screenings, the EPA Regional Offices use selection panels to choose the facilities, projects or programs which may receive annual Regional awards. These Regional winners then become eligible for national awards. Participation may not be in all states or EPA regions. Many State and Regional awards

presentation ceremonies are coordinated with local associations of the Water Environment Federation (WEF).

Awards nominations received from EPA Regional Offices undergo additional screenings and are evaluated by a selection panel of expert judges in the wastewater treatment industry. Award winners' representatives are invited to attend the awards presentation ceremony where they receive an inscribed plaque and other awards incentives. The awards recognize the staff of these facilities and provide national recognition for their contributions to their community and to the nation's goal of clean water.

Each year since the program's implementation, national awards have been presented annually at the Water Environment Federation's Technical Exposition & Conference (WEFTEC). There are more than 16,000 publicly owned and 60,000 industrially owned wastewater treatment plants in the United States, as well as facilities subject to National Pollutant Discharge and Elimination System (NPDES) general permit coverage. The EPA's National Clean Water Act Recognition Awards Program recognizes select wastewater treatment plants, programs or projects which have achieved outstanding compliance results and have demonstrated an exceptional technological achievement, method, or device in their waste treatment and pollution abatement programs. WEF has provided generous support for the EPA's awards program by co-hosting the awards ceremony and by providing excellent coverage in its publications. EPA greatly appreciates the continued support WEF provides to make this awards program a success.

We congratulate this year's national award winners, and encourage nominations of commendable candidates for next year's regional and National Clean Water Act Recognition Awards.

# **National Clean Water Act Recognition Awards Program**

## **Operations and Maintenance Excellence Awards**

### **The Program**

This is the eighteenth year for the EPA's National Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Excellence Awards that recognize plant personnel and local officials for innovative and outstanding O&M activities at wastewater treatment facilities.

### **The Criteria**

Treatment facilities are judged based on their achievements within the following areas:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| ✿ Automation                               | ✿ Laboratory Management                  |
| ✿ Best Management Practices                | ✿ Most Improved Plant                    |
| ✿ Biosolids Handling and Disposal          | ✿ Non-dischargers                        |
| ✿ Collection System Controls               | ✿ Personnel Training Programs            |
| ✿ Collection System Maintenance Management | ✿ Pollution Control and Field Monitoring |
| ✿ Compliance                               | ✿ Public Education                       |
| ✿ Equipment Maintenance Management         | ✿ Safety Education                       |
| ✿ Financial Management                     | ✿ Septage Management                     |
| ✿ Innovative O&M Practices                 | ✿ Toxic Waste Controls                   |

### **The Award Sub-categories**

Winners are recognized in nine O&M award sub-categories: small, medium and large secondary treatment plants; small, medium and large advanced treatment plants; small and large non-discharging plants; and most improved plant. For the purpose of the awards program, small is defined as a design flow capacity of less than one million gallons per day (mgd), medium is one to 10 mgd, and large is greater than 10 mgd, except in the non-discharging plant category where large is greater than one mgd.

The "Most Improved Plant" sub-category, a favorite of the O&M program, recognizes extraordinary efforts by treatment plant personnel, local officials, and the onsite operator trainer to return a facility to compliance under a technical assistance program authorized by Section 104(g)(1) of the Clean Water Act. Following are the 2003 National Operations and Maintenance Excellence Awards winners by sub-category:

***Small Advanced Plant***

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe Wastewater Treatment Plant  
Isabella Reservation, Mount Pleasant, Michigan
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Village of Johnson Wastewater Treatment Facility  
Johnson, Vermont

***Medium Advanced Plant***

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Kalispell Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant  
Kalispell, Montana
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: New Canaan Water Pollution Control Facility  
New Canaan, Connecticut

***Large Advanced Plant***

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: South Cobb Water Reclamation Facility  
Mableton, Georgia
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Rockaway Valley Regional Sewerage Authority  
Boonton, New Jersey

***Small Secondary Plant***

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Town of Antrim Wastewater Treatment Facility  
Antrim, New Hampshire
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Town of Pine Bluffs Sewer  
Pine Bluffs, Wyoming

***Medium Secondary Plant***

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Logan Township Municipal Utilities Authority  
Bridgeport, New Jersey
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: South Kingstown Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant  
Narragansett, Rhode Island

***Large Secondary Plant***

- 1<sup>st</sup> Places: Buckman Wastewater Treatment Facility - (tie)  
Jacksonville Electric Authority  
Jacksonville, Florida
- Central Contra Costa Sanitary District - (tie)  
Martinez, California

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Atlantic County Utilities Authority  
Atlantic City, New Jersey

***Large Non-Discharging***

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Eielson Air Force Base Wastewater Treatment Facility  
Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska

***Small Non-Discharging***

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Etowah Water & Sewer Authority  
Dawsonville, Georgia

***Most Improved Plant***

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Lisbon Wastewater Treatment Facility  
Lisbon, New Hampshire  
Section 104(g) Operator Trainers: New Hampshire Department of Environmental  
Services, Wastewater Engineering Bureau,  
Operations Section

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: St. Joe-Spencerville Regional Sewer District  
St. Joe, Indiana  
Section 104(g) Operator Trainer: David Denman, Indiana Department of  
Environmental Management

# **National Clean Water Act Recognition Awards Program**

## **Biosolids Management Excellence Awards**

### **The Program**

This is the sixteenth year of the EPA's National Biosolids Management Excellence Awards which recognizes outstanding operational projects, research studies, technological advances, and public acceptance efforts for promoting beneficial uses of municipal wastewater biosolids.

Innovative and widely applicable biosolids techniques are vital to the nation's efforts to protect and improve our land and water resources. These awards focus attention on the critical need to develop and implement management practices that use wastewater biosolids beneficially and that are environmentally safe, economical, and acceptable to the public. The nomination process is very productive, even if the nominee is not selected as a winner, due to the recognition and transfer of information that occurs.

For years, many municipalities, individuals and groups have worked to make significant contributions to the study and practice of environmentally safe use and disposal of municipal biosolids. This awards program recognizes their professional efforts.

### **The Criteria**

Candidates are evaluated using the following criteria:

#### **Operating Projects**

- ✿ Compliance with applicable Federal, State and local regulations
- ✿ Consistent, cost-effective operation
- ✿ Public acceptance of beneficial uses of biosolids.
- ✿ Significant recycling/reuse of natural resources (e.g., nutrients, organic matter and energy)
- ✿ Sustained (several years), full scale, proven operation

#### **Technology Development Activities**

- ✿ Operationally proven
- ✿ Resolved previous biosolids management or utilization problems
- ✿ Sustained excellence in advancing our knowledge of technology (e.g., improved design criteria or operational practice)
- ✿ Technology has potential for use in many areas of the country

### **Research Activities**

- \* Greater public acceptability of biosolids beneficial use
- \* Greatly improves the understanding of the environmental effects of beneficial use of biosolids
- \* Key information generated for development of improved biosolids regulations and guidance
- \* Substantial contribution toward the development of improved design and operation

### **Public Acceptance Efforts**

- \* Characterized by dedicated successful individual and team efforts
- \* Demonstrated increase in public acceptance
- \* Demonstrated willingness to share information and approaches for gaining public acceptance
- \* Proactive approach for successfully working with such entities as the press and cultivating and gaining allies to explain the benefits and diffuse alarmist stories that might arise
- \* Program with excellent information transfer and training efforts that have made a positive difference locally

### **The Award Sub-categories**

Sub-categories for the Biosolids Management Excellence awards are: large (greater than 5 dry tons/per day) operating projects; small (less than or equal to 5 dry tons/per day) operating projects; technology development; research; and, municipal public acceptance, as well as any other types of public acceptance efforts. The 2003 National Biosolids Management Excellence Awards winners are as follows:

#### **Large Operating Projects**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Littleton/Englewood Wastewater Treatment Facility  
Englewood, Colorado
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: City of Twin Falls Wastewater Treatment Plant  
Operated by Operations Management International, Inc.  
Twin Falls, Idaho

#### **Special Recognition Award**

City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Bureau of Sanitation and Engineering & the Exceptional Quality Biosolids Task Force  
Los Angeles, California

# National Clean Water Act Recognition Awards

## Pretreatment Program Excellence Awards

### **The Program**

This is the fifteenth year of the EPA's Pretreatment Program Excellence Awards. The awards recognize publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) with exemplary local pretreatment programs that reduce the risk of pass-through of toxic pollutants and the operational interferences caused by toxic dischargers. Through their pretreatment efforts with the local industry, POTWs achieve additional benefits such as improved biosolids quality and reduced risks to treatment plant worker health and safety.

The awards recognize POTWs for outstanding efforts in the control of industrial discharges and to heighten overall public awareness of and support for these local wastewater treatment-related programs.

### **The Award Criteria**

POTWs are judged on their performance in the following areas:

- ✿ Enforcement
- ✿ Environmental Achievements
- ✿ Industrial User Monitoring
- ✿ Industrial User Permitting
- ✿ Innovations in Program Implementation
- ✿ Legal Authority
- ✿ Local Limits
- ✿ Public Outreach

### **The Award Sub-categories**

Awards are given in three sub-categories based on the number of Significant Industrial Users (SIUs): 0 - 25 SIUs; 26 - 100 SIUs; and 100 and greater SIUs. The 2003 National Pretreatment Program Excellence Awards winners are as follows:

#### ***100 and greater SIUs:***

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners  
Industrial and Pollution Control Department  
Newark, New Jersey

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks,  
Wastewater Treatment Division  
Seattle, Washington

**26 - 100 SIUs:**

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Metro Wastewater Reclamation District  
Denver, Colorado

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant  
Sunnyvale, California

**0 - 25 SIUs:**

1<sup>st</sup> Place: South Adams County Water and Sanitation District  
Commerce City, Colorado

# **National Clean Water Act Recognition Awards Program**

## **Storm Water Management Excellence Awards**

### **The Program**

This is the thirteenth year for EPA's Storm Water Management Excellence Awards. The awards recognize municipalities and industries that are demonstrating their commitment to protect and improve the quality of the nation's waters by implementing outstanding, innovative and cost-effective Storm Water control programs and projects. This awards program heightens overall public awareness of storm water measures and encourages public support of programs aimed at protecting the public's health and safety and the nation's water quality.

### **The Award Criteria**

Nominees for the Storm Water Management awards should be implementing innovative storm water control programs or projects and be in compliance with all applicable regulatory requirements, National Pollutant Discharge and Elimination System (NPDES) permits, management plans and programs.

### **The Award Sub-categories**

Winners are recognized in two sub-categories: Municipal Storm Water control program or project; and Industrial Storm Water control program or project. The 2003 National Storm Water Excellence Awards winners are:

#### **Municipal**

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Ventura County Watershed Protection Division  
Ventura County, California

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: San Antonio Water System  
San Antonio, Texas

#### **Industrial**

1<sup>st</sup> Place: UTC Fuel Cells, LLC  
South Windsor, Connecticut

**National Clean Water Act Recognition Awards Program**  
**Combined Sewer Overflow Control Program Excellence Awards**

**The Program**

This is the thirteenth year for EPA's Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control Excellence Awards. The awards recognize municipalities which demonstrate their commitment to protect and improve the quality of the nation's waters by implementing outstanding, innovative and cost-effective CSO programs and projects. The CSO Control awards program heightens overall public awareness of CSO measures and encourages public support of programs aimed at protecting public health and safety and the nation's water quality.

**The Award Criteria**

Nominees should be implementing programs consistent with EPA's 1994 National Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control Policy, and nominated programs should also be cost-effective, show an innovative approach to planning, and where possible, have documented environmental benefits.

**The Award Sub-category**

The Combined Sewer Overflow Control Program Excellence Award is presented in the municipal category. The 2003 national winners are as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> Place:

City of Bangor, Maine

2<sup>nd</sup> Place:

Philadelphia Water Department  
Philadelphia Pennsylvania

For more information on the Clean Water Act Recognition Awards program visit [www.epa.gov/owm](http://www.epa.gov/owm), and contact your State water pollution control agency, the U.S. EPA offices or WEF at the following locations:

**Region 1**

Office of Ecosystem Protection  
JFK Federal Building, One Congress Street  
Boston, MA 02114-2023  
(617) 918-1764

**Region 2**

Division of Environmental Planning and  
Protection  
290 Broadway  
New York, New York 10007-1866  
(212) 637-3836

**Region 3**

Water Protection Division  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029  
(215) 814-5788

**Region 4**

Water Management Division  
61 Forsyth Street  
Atlanta, GA 30303-3104  
(404) 562-9280 Ext. 29248

**Region 5**

Water Division (WQ-16J)  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590  
(312) 353-5784

**Region 6**

Water Quality Protection Division  
Fountain Place, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor, Suite 1200  
1445 Ross Avenue  
Dallas, TX 75202-2733  
(214) 665-6525

**Region 7**

Water, Wetlands, & Pesticides Division  
901 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kansas City, KS 66101  
(913) 551-7453

**Region 8**

Office of Partnerships and Regulatory Asst.  
999 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 500  
Denver, CO 80202-2466  
(303) 312-6280

**Region 9**

Water Division  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
(415) 744-1949

**Region 10**

Office of Water  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101  
(206) 553-8575

**Headquarters**

Office of Wastewater Management  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW (4204M)  
Washington, DC 20460  
(202) 564-0628

**The Water Environment Federation (WEF)**

Attn: Technical Services  
601 Wythe Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
(703) 684-2400

**United States Environmental Protection Agency**  
**Office of Water (4204M)**  
**832-K-03-002**  
**[www.epa.gov/owm](http://www.epa.gov/owm)**  
**September 2003**